October 2011

Facts on Alberta

Living and Doing Business in Alberta

Government of Alberta

FACTS ON ALBERTA

LIVING AND DOING BUSINESS IN ALBERTA

Alberta

Provincial Population:	3,779,400 as of July 1, 2011
Area:	Over 661,000 square kilometres
Major Cities Population:	***Edmonton metropolitan area*** – 1,176,300 (2010) ***Calgary metropolitan area*** – 1,242,600 (2010)
Gross Domestic Product:	$247.2 billion (2009, current dollars) $178.2 billion (2009, chained 2002 dollars)
Real Economic Growth: (chained 2002 dollars)	**2010** 3.8% (estimate) 2009 -4.5% 2008 1.4%
Economic Base:	***Traditional*** • Oil and Gas • Petrochemicals • Agricultural Services • Food and Beverage Processing • Tourism • Industrial Machinery and Equipment ***Emerging*** • Biotechnology and Pharmaceuticals • Software Development • Electronics and Microelectronics • Environmental Technologies
Public and Private Investment:	$70.4 billion (2010)
Unemployment Rate:	5.4% (Sept 2011) 6.5% (2010) 6.6% (2009) 3.6% (2008)
Government:	The Alberta government's strategy combines natural advantages with a positive business climate that encourages investment and growth. This includes: • a low tax regime; • streamlined regulations; • a strong fiscal framework; and • a modern infrastructure of transportation, utilities, education and health.

This report is based on information and sources considered to be reliable at time of publication.

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Alberta - Fresh Opportunities

Business

Alberta has been blessed with an abundance of natural resources that have formed the foundation of its thriving economy. The Alberta government has built on this foundation by engineering an economic plan and creating a positive business climate that encourages investment, fosters diversification and allows businesses to compete successfully around the globe. The result is one of the most vibrant and competitive economies in the world. Overall, Alberta's globally competitive business climate consists of:

- a diverse and relatively strong economy;
- a young, skilled and productive workforce;
- a strong commitment to innovation and knowledge-based progress;
- a highly entrepreneurial and competitive business community;
- a business-friendly province committed to responsible regulation;
- the lowest overall tax load of any province in Canada, including no provincial sales tax;
- a modern and efficient infrastructure;
- an abundance of natural resources; and
- a fiscally responsible provincial government.

Lifestyle

Each year, thousands of people move to Alberta, drawn by personal or business opportunities and the exceptional standard of living. Alberta is a prosperous province, where residents share a rich natural environment and enjoy outstanding opportunities in recreation, arts and culture. In particular, Alberta offers:

- safe, modern cities and charming small towns and villages;
- cultural diversity;
- accessible education and health care;
- recreation and leisure opportunities;
- music, dance, film, literature, theatre and visual arts experiences;
- sporting events, fairs and rodeos;
- internationally recognized museums, national parks and world heritage sites; and
- clean, beautiful, natural environment.

Economy

In 2010, Alberta's economy rebounded strongly from the global economic recession and expanded by 3.8%. Over the long term a low unemployment rate, a well trained workforce and an increasingly diversified economy will contribute to Alberta's economy again leading the nation in economic growth.

Alberta Economic Results

- Over the last two decades, Alberta had the highest Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate in Canada, at 3.2% per year. In 2010 Alberta's economy grew by an estimated 3.8%. Most private sector forecasters expect the province to continue to lead the country in economic growth over the long term.
- Alberta's exports of goods increased by 11% between 2009 and 2010 to an estimated $77.8 billion. This increase was mainly the result of rising commodity prices (for items such as crude oil, natural gas, chemicals and agricultural commodities) and higher volumes in exports of manufactured goods.
- Alberta's manufacturing shipments increased 11.3% from 2009 to 2010 (from $54.0 billion to $60.1 billion).
- The province consistently has the highest investment per capita among provinces. In 2010, Alberta investment per capita was $18,930, nearly double the national average. A total of $70.4 billion was invested in 2010, nearly twice the amount invested in 2000.
- Average annual employment in the province in 2010 decreased by 8,600 over 2009. Between 2000 and 2010, employment increased by an average of 43,400 per year.
- Alberta's average unemployment rate in 2010 was the third lowest in Canada at 6.5%.

Interprovincial Indicators

Province	2011 Population (000s)	Unemployment Rate 2010 (%)	2009 GDP ($ millions)		Real Economic Growth (%, at 2002 Prices)			
			Current $	Constant $*	1999 - 2009	2008	2009	2010**
Newfoundland and Labrador	511	14.4	24,970	18,119	3.1	2.0	10.2	6.0
Prince Edward Island	146	11.2	4,750	4,164	1.7	0.4	0.1	2.0
Nova Scotia	945	9.3	34,283	28,931	1.7	1.3	0.1	2.1
New Brunswick	755	9.3	27,497	23,314	1.8	0.2	0.3	3.3
Quebec	7,980	8.0	303,747	267,477	1.8	1.1	0.3	2.7
Ontario	13,373	8.7	578,183	509,421	1.7	0.9	3.6	3.4
Manitoba	1,251	5.4	50,973	42,077	2.1	1.9	0.0	2.0
Saskatchewan	1,058	5.2	56,553	39,810	1.6	4.6	3.9	4.4
Alberta	3,779	6.5	247,184	178,225	2.7	1.4	4.5	3.8
British Columbia	4,573	7.6	191,006	161,851	2.5	0.2	1.8	4.0
Canada	34,483	8.0	1,527,258	1,285,604	2.1	0.5	2.5	3.1

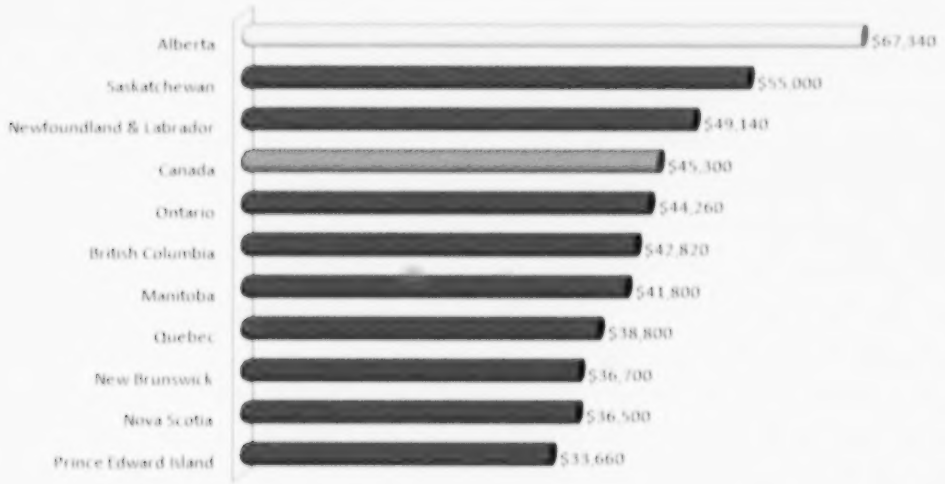
Notes:
*2009 GDP in chained 2002 dollars.
**Statistics Canada estimates for GDP at basic prices (by industry).
Sources: Statistics Canada

Economic Well-Being

Alberta boasts a high standard of living. The standard of living of Albertans, as measured in GDP per capita, has grown consistently since 2000, outperforming the rest of Canada. In 2009, it was the highest of all provinces – 49% above the Canadian average.

Standard of Living by Province, 2009

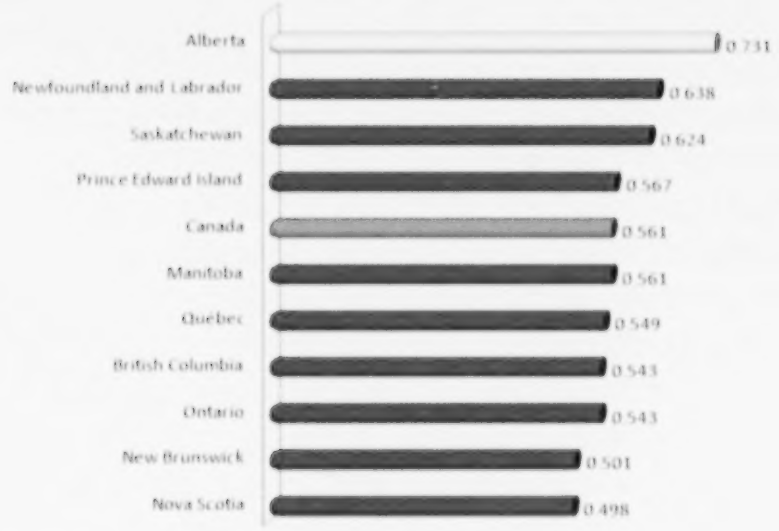
(GDP per Capita)



Note: Current dollar GDP
Source: Statistics Canada

Alberta has been the nation's leader in economic well-being since 1993, as measured by the index published by the Centre for the Study of Living Standards. In 2010, Alberta maintained the top spot in the nation with an index of 0.73 out of a possible score of 1.00. The index value for Alberta is 30% higher than the Canadian average.

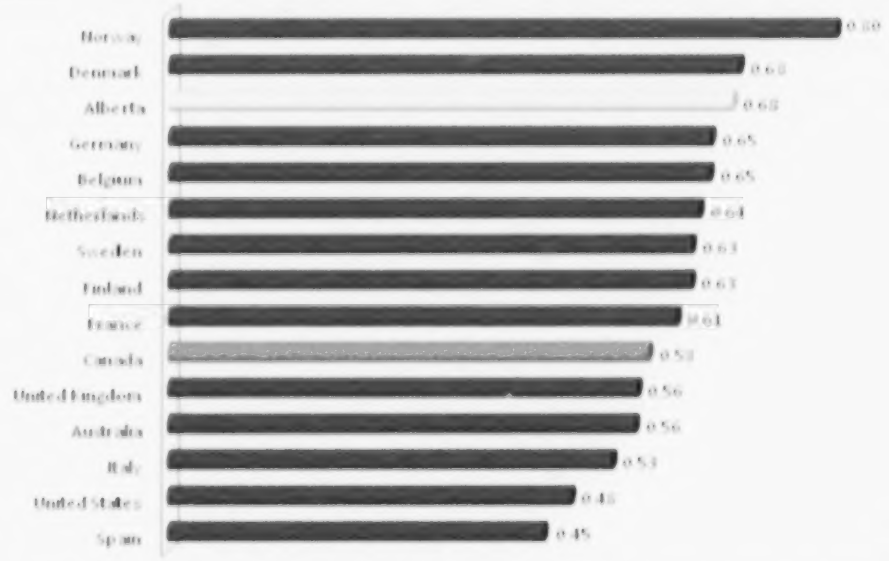
Index of Economic Well-Being by Province, 2010



Note: Measures consumption flows, wealth stocks, income distribution, and economic security
Source: Centre for the Study of Living Standards

The province's strong performance in economic well-being indicators was also evident in international comparisons. In 2009, Alberta ranked third compared to 14 OECD nations in an international comparison of economic well-being.

Index of Economic Well-Being – International Comparison, 2009



Note: Measures consumption flows, wealth stocks, income distribution, and economic security
Source: Centre for the Study of Living Standards

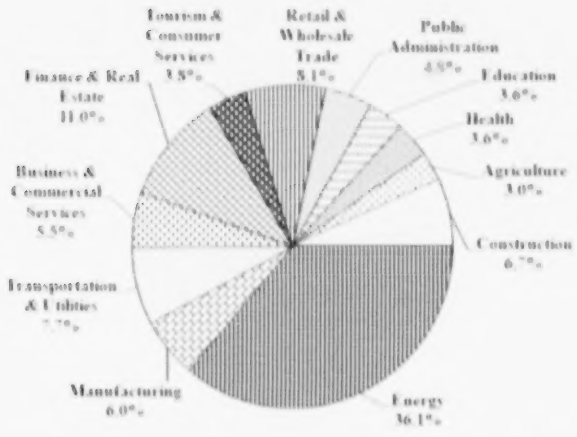
Economic Structure

Energy remains the key driver of Alberta's economy, accounting for almost one-quarter of the province's GDP in 2009. However, compared to 1985, energy's contribution to GDP has declined from 36.1% to 23.4% in 2009, a result of the growth in other sectors of the economy.

The four non-energy sectors that registered the strongest expansion from 1985 to 2009 were: finance and real estate (11.0% to 14.6%), business and commercial services (5.5% to 9.6%), construction (6.7% to 10.6%), and tourism and consumer services (3.8% to 5.2%). The combined contribution of these four sectors grew from 27.0% in 1985 to 40.0% in 2009.

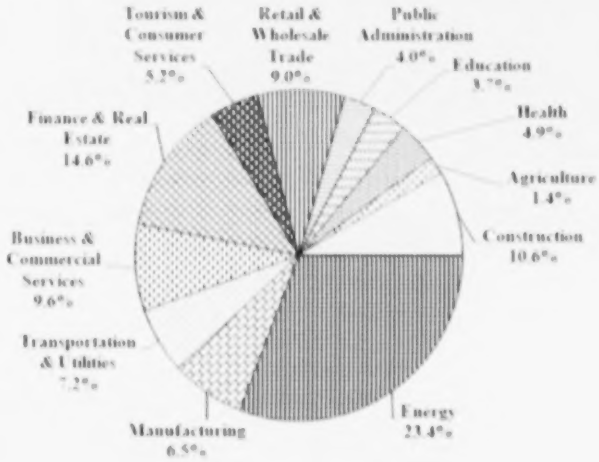
Distribution of GDP – 1985

Total GDP at Market Prices: $66.8 Billion



Distribution of GDP – 2009

Total GDP at Market Prices: $247.2 Billion



Source: Alberta Finance

Alberta Economic Indicators

Indicator	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	% Change '08-'09	% Change '09-'10
Demographics:							
Population ('000's), as of July 1	3,421.3	3,512.7	3,591.4	3,670.7	3,720.9	2.2%	1.4%
Net international migration (July 1 through June 30)	21,279	29,874	34,252	35,997	21,456	5.1%	-40.4%
Net inter-provincial migration (July 1 through June 30)	45,795	33,809	15,317	13,184	(2,183)	-13.9%	-116.6%
Labour Force:							
Employment ('000's)	1,916.5	1,991.3	2,053.7	2,025.2	2,016.6	-1.4%	-0.4%
Job creation ('000's)	90.9	74.8	62.4	(28.5)	(8.6)		
Full Time ('000's)	1,607.9	1,675.1	1,721.2	1,663.3	1,661.0	-3.4%	-0.1%
Part Time ('000's)	308.6	316.2	332.4	361.8	355.6	8.8%	-1.7%
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.4	3.5	3.6	6.6	6.5		
Employment Insurance beneficiaries (#)	18,834	16,838	17,702	56,556	49,778	219.5%	-12.0%
Average Weekly Earnings ($, incl. overtime)	823.35	871.06	923.21	950.13	993.13	2.9%	4.5%
Wages and salaries ($ millions)	95,678	106,664	115,975	115,261	120,677	-0.6%	4.7%
Gross Domestic Product:							
Gross Domestic Product, nominal ($millions)	238,886	255,787	291,577	247,184		-15.2%	
Gross Domestic Product, chained 2002$ (millions)	180,852	184,008	186,528	178,225		-4.5%	
Real GDP growth (%)	5.8	1.7	1.4	-4.5	3.8		
Construction:							
Capital investment, construction and M&E ($ millions)	76,924	83,933	89,744	65,695	70,438	-26.8%	7.2%
Capital investment per capita ($)	22,484	23,894	24,989	17,897	18,930	-28.4%	5.8%
Capital investment, construction ($ millions)	52,987	59,768	65,155	44,707	48,604	-31.4%	8.7%
Capital investment, M&E ($ millions)	23,937	24,165	24,589	20,988	21,834	-14.6%	4.0%
Building permits ($millions)	13,876	15,730	13,141	11,277	11,425	-14.2%	1.3%
Housing starts in all areas (number)	48,962	48,336	29,164	20,298	27,100	-30.4%	33.5%
Consumer Spending and Income:							
Retail trade ($million)	55,942	61,487	61,614	56,478	59,715	-8.3%	5.7%
Personal income per capita ($)	42,691	45,592	47,951	46,678		-2.7%	
Personal disposable income ($million)	112,433	122,060	132,949	135,148		1.7%	
Personal disposable income per capita ($)	32,863	34,748	37,019	36,818		-0.5%	
New car sales (number)	248,731	257,050	238,413	186,768	204,263	-21.7%	9.4%
MLS, units sold	74,350	71,430	56,389	57,786	49,723	2.5%	-14.0%
MLS, average price ($)	286,208	359,086	352,675	340,242	352,349	-3.5%	3.6%
Consumer Price Index (2002=100)	112.3	117.9	121.6	121.5	122.7	-0.1%	1.0%
Consumer bankruptcies (number)	5,248	4,768	6,066	9,986	8,150	64.6%	-18.4%
International and Inter-Provincial Trade:							
International exports - goods ($millions)	77,744	81,569	110,248	69,929	78,125	-36.6%	11.7%
International exports - goods & services ($millions)	85,640	89,650	118,534	77,818		-34.3%	
Business Entry & Exit:							
Incorporations (number)	48,207	48,791	43,515	35,143	39,126	-19.2%	11.3%
Business bankruptcies (number)	666	449	447	405	378	-9.4%	-6.7%
Energy:							
Crude oil production ('000 m3)	106,018	108,853	108,322	112,935	121,569	4.3%	7.6%
Natural gas gross production (million m3)	167,385	165,587	157,664	146,632	139,420	-7.0%	-4.9%
Wells drilled - completion basis (number)	16,687	14,453	15,346	6,699	8,140	-56.3%	21.5%
Number of active drilling rigs (average #)	371	241	236	128	207	-45.8%	61.7%
Manufacturing:							
Manufacturing shipments ($millions)	65,091	65,731	70,146	53,951	60,074	-23.1%	11.3%
Wholesale:							
Wholesale trade ($millions)	58,427	60,587	66,361	56,059	62,116	-15.5%	10.8%
Agriculture:							
Farm cash receipts ($millions)	7,746	8,669	10,159	9,352	8,983	-7.9%	-3.9%

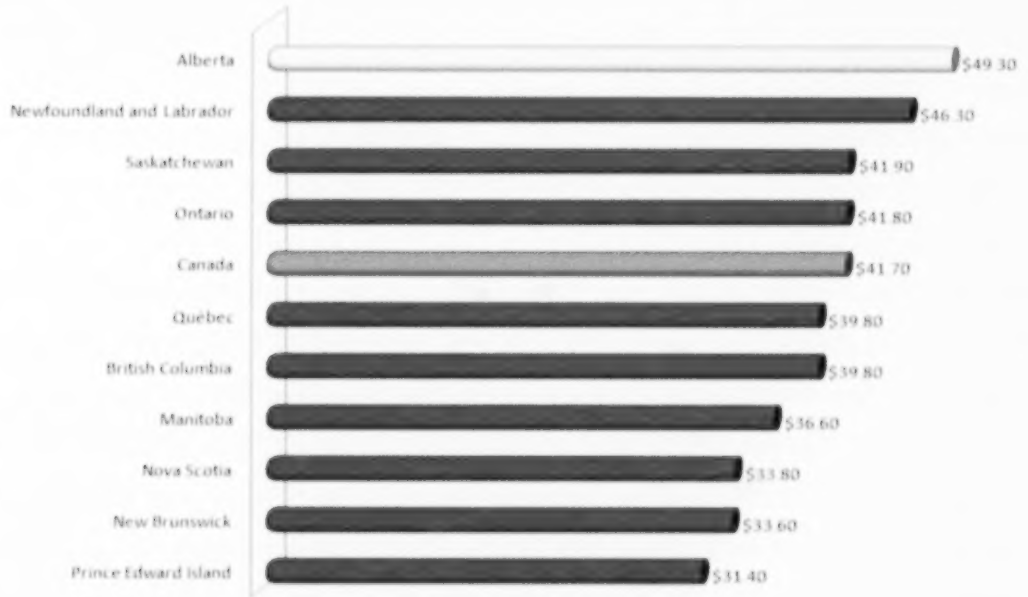
Sources: Industry Canada, Service Alberta, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Canadian Real Estate Association, Statistics Canada, Alberta Treasury Board and Enterprise, Canadian Association of Oil Well Drilling Contractors.

Productivity

Productivity measures the efficiency with which resources are employed in the production process. It is the most important source of long-term economic growth and increased standard of living as it addresses the overall performance of a company or economy through achieving greater resource allocation, human resource efficiency, increased innovation, technology diffusion and capital investment.

Productivity is an essential component to the success and health of every company in Alberta and the overall standard of living of Albertans. Alberta has a favourable environment that supports productivity: low taxes, a well-developed innovation system, a skilled labour force, and a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. In 2010, Alberta's labour productivity – measured as the ratio of output (GDP) to labour inputs (hours worked) – was higher than that of any other province. Total value added (or GDP) per hour in Alberta was 118% of the Canadian average.

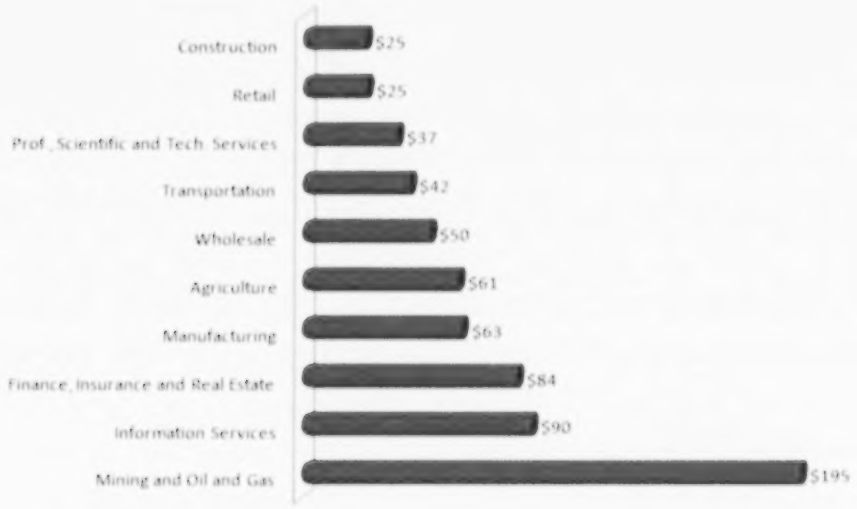
Labour Productivity by Province – Business Sector, 2010
(real GDP per hour worked)



Note: GDP at basic prices in chained 2002 dollars
Sources: Statistics Canada, Alberta Treasury Board and Enterprise

The mining and oil and gas, information services, finance and insurance and manufacturing sectors continued to have the highest labour productivity in Alberta in 2010.

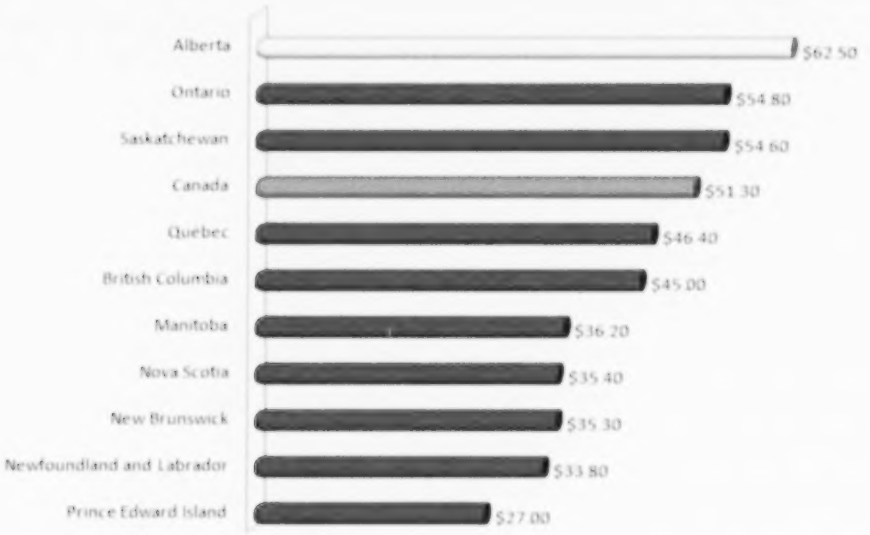
Labour Productivity by Industry in Alberta, 2010
(real GDP per hour worked)



Note: GDP at basic prices in chained 2002 dollars
Sources: Statistics Canada, Alberta Treasury Board and Enterprise

Alberta's manufacturing sector had the highest productivity of all provinces, partly because of its highly productive chemical, machinery and food processing industries. In 2010, the total value added per hour in Alberta exceeded the Canadian average by 21.8%.

Manufacturing Sector Labour Productivity by Province, 2010
(real GDP per hour worked)



Note: GDP at basic prices in 2002 chained dollars
Sources: Statistics Canada, Alberta Treasury Board and Enterprise

Alberta has a commitment to creating a supportive environment for companies in the province to improve their productivity and become successful in world markets. For example, Alberta's provincial scientific research and experimental development (SR&ED) tax credit is worth 10% of a company's eligible expenditures up to $4 million, for a maximum credit of $400,000.

Alberta Competitiveness Act

Improving competitiveness is part of the Government of Alberta's clear plan for strong economic recovery. The government has committed to ensuring the province's industries are competitive and able to attract investment to provide jobs and sustain prosperity. Introduced and passed during the spring 2010 sitting of the Legislature, the *Alberta Competitiveness Act* is a means to bring government, industry and Albertans together. The goal is to develop a shared strategy that will measure the province's overall competitiveness and identify where action needs to be taken to improve competitiveness.

Taxation

Albertans have the lowest overall personal taxes in Canada

- Alberta's personal tax advantage results from a low single rate tax system, including the highest basic and spousal exemptions in the country, no general sales tax, the lowest gasoline tax rate, and no health care premiums.

Alberta businesses have the lowest overall business taxes in Canada

- Alberta's business tax advantage results from low corporate income tax rates, no capital tax, no general sales tax, no payroll tax, and the lowest gasoline tax among the provinces.

Major Provincial Tax Rates, 2011

		BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Corporate Income Tax [1]											
General Rate	(%)	10.0	10.0	12.0	12.0	11.5	11.9 [3]	10.0	16.0	16.0	14.0
Mfg. & Proc. Rate	(%)	10.0	10.0	10.0 [2]	12.0	10.0	11.9 [3]	10.0	16.0	16.0	5.0
Small Business											
Rate	(%)	2.5	3.0	4.5	0.0	4.5	8.0	5.0	4.5	1.0	4.0
Threshold	($'000)	500	500	500	400	500	500	500	400	500	500
Capital Tax											
General	(max %)	-	-	-					0.05	-	-
Financial Institutions	(max %)		-	3.25	3.0		0.254 [4]	3.0	4.0	5.0	4.0
Health Care Premiums											
Indiv./ family (max) [5]	($)	60.50/121 [5]	-	-	-	300 [6]	100 [7]	-	-	-	-
Employer Payroll Tax	(max %)	-	-	-	2.15	1.95	4.26	-	-	-	2.00
General Sales Tax	(%)	12.0 [9]	-	5.0	7.0	13.0 [9]	8.5 [8]	13.0 [9]	15.0 [9]	10.0 [9]	13.0 [9]
Fuel Tax											
Gasoline	(¢/litre)	20.1 [10]	9.0	15.0	11.5	14.7	17.2	10.7	15.5	15.8	16.5
Tobacco Tax	($/ctn)	37.00	40.00	42.00	41.00	24.70	21.20	23.50	43.04	44.90	38.00
Hotel Room Tax [11]	(%)	8.0 [12]	4.0 [13]	-	-	3.0 [14]	3.0 [15]	-	-	-	-

Notes:

1. Prorated as of December 31, 2011.
2. A rebate of up to 2.5% of manufacturing profits allocated to Saskatchewan is available, which can reduce the rate to as low as 10%.
3. 11.9% tax rate applies to financial institutions (except insurance companies) and oil refining companies.
4. The Quebec financial institutions capital tax includes the base rate of 0.72% and a compensatory tax of 0.25%.
5. BC health care premiums are paid monthly.
6. Ontario annual health premium per individual is prorated based on taxable income (TI). TI under $20,000 premium is nil. TI of $20.0K to$25.0K premium is 6% of income > $20.0K; TI $25.0K to $36.0K premium is $300; TI $36.0K to $38.5K premium $300 + 6% of income > $36.0K; TI $38.5K to $48.0K premium $450; TI $48.0K to $48.6K $450 + 25% of income > $48.0K; TI $48.6K to $72.0K premium is $700; TI $72.0K to $72.6K premium $600 + 25% income over $72.0K; TI $72.6K to $200.0K premium is $750; TI $200.0K to $200.6K $750 + 25% of income over $200.0K; TI $200.6K or more premium is $900.
7. Quebec annual individual health premium will increase to $100 in 2011 and $200 in 2012.
8. These provinces apply their retail sales tax on the retail price of the good inclusive of GST.
9. Harmonized Sales Tax (combination PST/GST).
10. BC rate is 14.5 cents/litre plus carbon tax on gasoline of 4.45 centre/litre effective July 1, 2010.
11. Provincial rates. Some municipalities may levy additional taxes.
12. Hotel tax was eliminated effective with the introduction of harmonized sales tax (HST).
13. Tourism levy where revenue collected is dedicated to tourism marketing and development.
14. Destination marketing fee of up to 3% is charged by some transient accommodation establishments to fund tourism marketing campaigns. Provincial sales tax (RTS) is applied at a rate of 5 per cent to the total value of transient accommodation.
15. The tax varies between 3% and 2$ per room depending on the region.

Sources: PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Tax Facts and Figures 2011; Alberta Finance; Revenue Quebec; Nova Scotia Department of Finance; Newfoundland Department of Finance; New Brunswick Department of Finance; British Columbia Small Business and Revenue; Saskatchewan Department of Finance.

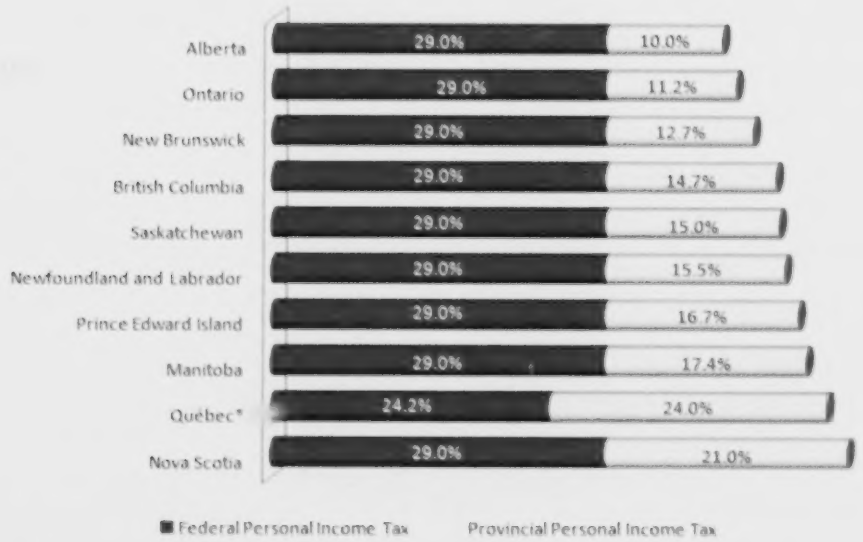
Personal Income Taxes

Alberta's low personal income taxes allow people to spend or invest more of their own money according to their wishes. Alberta's low top marginal tax rate rewards the efforts of Albertans and attracts skilled workers from around the world, further fuelling an already dynamic economy.

Alberta indexes its personal income tax system to offset inflation, protecting taxpayers. For the 2011 tax year, an additional $152 was added to the basic, spousal and eligible dependant amounts, raising them to $16,977, up from $16,825 in 2010.

The annual indexing of the Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit began in July 2006. The maximum benefits as of July 2011 are: $702 for one child; $1,341 for two children; $1,724 for three children; and $1,852 for four or more children. The income level at which the credit begins to be phased out is $34,280. A typical working family with two children can earn up to $67,805 net income in the previous calendar year before paying provincial income taxes, as the Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit offsets any income taxes paid to that level.

Top Marginal Effective Personal Income Tax Rates – May 2011



*Federal rates that apply in Quebec have been reduced by the 16.5% "Quebec abatement".
Note: Includes Surtaxes
Source: Alberta Budget 2011

Albertans benefit from not having to pay a general provincial sales tax. This particularly helps Albertans with lower incomes.

Personal Taxable Income Brackets and Rates by Province – 2011

	Basic Amount	Basic Brackets and Rates (rates apply starting at the brackets shown)					Surtax thresholds and Rates**
Alberta	$16,977	$0 10%					N/A
British Columbia	$11,088	$0 5.06%	$36,147 7.70%	$72,294 10.50%	$83,002 12.29%	$100,788 14.70%	
Manitoba	$8,384	$0 10.80%	$31,001 12.75%	$67,001 17.40%			
New Brunswick	$8,953	$0 9.10%	$37,151 12.10%	$74,301 12.40%	$120,797 14.30%		
Newfoundland and Labrador	$7,989	$0 7.70%	$31,905 12.50%	$63,808 13.30%			N/A N/A
Northwest Territories	$12,919	$0 5.90%	$37,626 8.60%	$75,253 12.20%	$122,345 14.05%		N/A
Nova Scotia	$8,481	$0 8.79%	$29,591 14.95%	$59,181 16.67%	$93,001 17.50%	$150,001 21.00%	N/A N/A
Nunavut*	$11,878	$0 4.00%	$39,612 7.00%	$79,224 9.00%	$128,800 11.50%		N/A
Ontario	$9,104	$0 5.05%	$37,775 9.15%	$75,551 11.16%			$4,078 ($66,514), 20% $5,219 ($78,361), 36%
Prince Edward Island	$7,708	$0 9.80%	$31,985 13.80%	$63,971 16.70%			$12,500 ($98,145) 10.00%
Quebec*	$10,640	$0 16.00%	$39,061 20.00%	$78,121 24.00%			N/A
Saskatchewan	$14,535	$0 11.00%	$40,920 13.00%	$116,912 15.00%			

*In Quebec, the federal component of tax is reduced by the 16.5% abatement of basic federal tax.
**Surtax rates apply to provincial tax above surtax thresholds. Figures in brackets are the taxable income levels that correspond to the thresholds, assuming only the basic personal credit is claimed.
Sources: KPMG, *TaxTips* Website;

Interprovincial Tax and Health Care Premium Comparison

Alberta's overall personal taxes are the lowest in Canada in 2011. For example, a two-income family with two children, earning an income of $75,000 per year, pays $4,404 less in taxes in Alberta than in Nova Scotia and $2,573 less than residents of Ontario.

Albertans also benefit from the elimination of personal health care premiums which came into effect on January 1, 2009. Eliminating premiums in their entirety means that Alberta's tax system is even more competitive and equitable. The elimination results in significant savings – about $1 billion – for individual Albertans and Alberta businesses each year. This is roughly equal to a 12% reduction in personal income taxes.

Employment Income of $125,000 – Two-Income Family with Two Children ($) – 2011

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Provincial Income Tax	4,997	6,824	7,688	9,994	5,580	10,511	8,687	10,654	10,301	8,778
Provincial Sales Tax	2,539		1,462	2,315	3,020	3,434	3,014	3,293	3,297	3,321
Health Care Premium	1,089				788	200				
Payroll Tax				985	1,108	2,552				405
Fuel Tax	653	405	675	518	662	729	482	698	711	743
Total Provincial Tax	9,278	7,229	9,825	13,812	11,158	17,426	12,183	14,645	14,309	13,247

Employment Income of $75,000 – Two-Income Family with Two Children ($) – 2011

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Provincial Income Tax	1,907	2,578	2,587	4,512	1,656	2,468	3,947	4,472	4,717	3,786
Provincial Sales Tax	1,661		982	1,544	2,010	2,309	1,999	2,217	2,200	2,212
Health Care Premium	1,089				563	200				
Payroll Tax				591	665	1,531				243
Fuel Tax	653	405	675	518	662	729	482	698	711	743
Total Provincial Tax	5,310	2,983	4,244	7,165	5,556	7,237	6,428	7,387	7,628	6,984

Employment Income of $30,000 – One-Income Family with Two Children ($) - 2011

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Provincial Income Tax	295	(1,335)	(624)	265	(1,480)	(4,587)	246	579	1,064	377
Provincial Sales Tax	208		609	966	412	1,330	1,238	1,372	1,348	1,360
Health Care Premium					225	200				
Payroll Tax				236	266	612				97
Fuel Tax	435	270	450	345	441	486	321	465	474	495
Total Provincial Tax	938	(1,065)	435	1,812	(136)	(1,959)	1,805	2,416	2,886	2,329

Notes

Calculations are based on other provinces' tax parameters known as of January 20, 2011.

Assumptions

- Business is assumed to bear between 25% and 60% of the provincial sales tax, depending upon the provincial tax regime.
- Health care insurance premiums are net of premium subsidies.
- In provinces that impose payroll taxes, 75% is assumed to be borne by employees and 25% by employers. The same 75/25 split is assumed for the net health care insurance premiums.
- Fuel tax is based on estimated consumption of 3,000 litres per year for one-income families and 4,800 litres for two-income families.
- RRSP/RPP contributions of $1,000, $9,700 and $16,800 are included in the calculation of personal income tax for the $30,000, $75,000 and $125,000 families, respectively.
- For two-income families, income and RRSP/RPP contributions are split 60/40 between the two spouses.
- The children in each family are assumed to be 6 and 12 years old.

Source: Alberta Finance, *Budget 2011*

Corporate Taxation

Alberta provides an attractive tax environment for business. Alberta's low taxes on capital investment are a key factor in encouraging businesses to invest in new technologies and machinery, increasing innovation and boosting productivity. Ultimately this results in a higher standard of living for all Albertans. In addition, Alberta has no provincial capital or payroll taxes, which are common in many other provinces and U.S. states.

Provincial Corporate Income Tax Rates – pro-rated for December 31, 2010

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PEI	NL
General (%)	10.0	10.0	12.0	12.0	11.5 [1]	11.9	10.0 [2]	16.0	16.0	14.0
Mfg. & Processing (%)	10.0	10.0	10.0	12.0	10.0	11.9	10.0	16.0	16.0	5.0
Small Business (%)	2.5	3.0	4.5	0.0	4.5	8.0	5.0	4.5	1.0	4.0

(1) Ontario's corporate income tax rate will be reduced from 12% to 11.5% effective July 1, 2011.

(2) New Brunswick's corporate income tax rate will be reduced from 11% to 10% effective July 1, 2011.

Source: Alberta Budget 2011

Federal Corporate Tax Rates – 2011
(in currency of country)

Federal Corporate Tax Rates (in currency of country)	Canada 2011	United States 2011
Corporate Income Tax (%) [a]		
Top General Statutory Rate	16.5	35.0
Manufacturing Rate	16.5	31.9
Small Business	11.0	34.0
Combined Effective (Cdn. Federal +AB & US Federal + State Avg.)	26.5	39.2
General Sales Tax (%) [b]	5.0	-
Social Security [c]	4.95 % (max. $2,218 on max contributory earnings of $44,800)	6.2% (max. $6,622 on max contributory earnings of $106,800)
Employment Insurance/ Unemployment Tax (employer premiums) [d]	1.78% (max. $786 on max insurable earnings of $44,200)	6.0% ($420 on taxable wage limit of $7,000)
Medicare	-	1.45%

Notes:

a) Canada: Federal small business rate is currently being applied to taxable income up to C$400,000. United States: The small business rate is the effective federal rate on taxable income of US$335,000 approximating the Canadian federal small business threshold. Combined effective rate shows the basic federal and a weighted average state corporate marginal income tax rate.

b) This refundable value added tax has no net cost once input tax credits (refunds) have been claimed.

c) Represents Canada Pension Plan and U.S. Social Security. In Canada, employee and employer contribution rates were 4.95% of the employee pensionable earnings to a maximum contribution to the plan of $2,218. Individuals who earn less than $3,500 annually do not need to contribute to the plan. The tax exempt amount for U.S. Social Security is $13,560 per year.

d) Canada: All rates shown are maximum rates paid by employers at 1.4 times the employee premium and are levied at the federal level only. United States: Employers who pay the state unemployment tax receive an offset credit of up to 5.4% regardless of the rate of tax they pay the state. Therefore, the net FUTA tax rate can be as low as 0.8%, for a maximum federal tax of $56.00 per employee, per year. State law determines individual state unemployment insurance tax rates.
For the 2011 calendar year the employee's share of US unemployment tax has been reduced to 4.2%.

Sources: PriceWaterhouseCoopers, *Tax Facts and Figures 2011*; Canada Revenue Agency; Federation of Tax Administrators.

Research and Development Tax Credits

Federal Scientific Research and Experimental Development Program

The Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) Program is a federal tax incentive program to encourage Canadian businesses of all sizes and in all sectors to conduct research and development (R&D) in Canada that will lead to new, improved or technologically advanced products or processes. The SR&ED Program is the largest single source of federal government support for industrial research and development.

Generally, a Canadian-controlled private corporation (CCPC) can earn an investment tax credit (ITC) of 35% up to the first $3 million of qualified expenditures for SR&ED carried out in Canada, and 20% on any excess amount. Other Canadian corporations, proprietorships, partnerships, and trusts can earn an ITC of 20% of qualified expenditures for SR&ED carried out in Canada.

Normally, a CCPC with a taxable income in the immediately preceding year that does not exceed the business limit may receive a portion of the ITC earned as a refund, after applying these tax credits against taxes payable. The ITC earned by a Canadian corporation that is not a CCPC is non-refundable, but may be used to reduce any taxes payable. The ITC earned by a proprietorship or certain trusts may be partially refunded after applying these tax credits against taxes payable.

To qualify for the SR&ED Program, work must advance the understanding of scientific relations or technologies, address scientific or technological uncertainty, and incorporate a systematic investigation by qualified personnel.

Work that qualifies for SR&ED tax credits includes:

- experimental development to achieve technological advancement to create new materials, devices, products, or processes, or to improve existing ones;
- applied research to advance scientific knowledge with a specific practical application in view;
- basic research to advance scientific knowledge without a specific practical application in view; and
- support work in engineering, design, operations research, mathematical analysis, computer programming, data collection, testing, or psychological research, but only if the work is commensurate with, and directly supports, the eligible experimental development, or applied or basic research.

Alberta Scientific Research and Experimental Development Program

The Alberta Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) tax credit is a key action in the provincial strategy to build a next generation economy in Alberta through technological innovation and the development of value-added sectors. It benefits businesses conducting research and development that will lead to new, improved or technologically advanced products or processes.

The Alberta SR&ED tax credit is over and above the federal SR&ED credit, helping to further the research and development investments made by Alberta companies. The credit is for all expenditures incurred after December 31, 2008 which are also eligible for the federal credit. The Alberta SR&ED tax credit is worth 10% of a company's eligible expenditures up to $4 million, for a maximum credit of $400,000. It will be refundable for all companies.

Municipal Taxation

In Alberta, the assessment of residential property for the purposes of municipal and education taxation is based on market value as set out in the *Municipal Government Act* and Regulations. There are two levies against assessable property in the province: the Municipal Levy, used to fund municipal services, and the Alberta Education Levy, collected on behalf of the provincial government to help fund education.

All business occupants in the cities of Calgary and Edmonton are assessed for business taxation. Business tax is calculated based on the assessed value of the space occupied by the business, multiplied by the annual tax rate as set by each city council. For 2011, the business tax rate for Calgary is 7.87%.

Beginning in 2011 Edmonton does not have a business mill rate. Instead the City of Edmonton has developed a Business Revitalization Zone (BRZ) tax assessment. A BRZ tax assessment is a value placed on any space occupied or used by a person for the purpose of operating a business that is situated in a BRZ. The assessment is for taxation purposes only and does not reflect the profitability of a business.

There are 12 Business Revitalization Zones in Edmonton. They are: 124 Street and area; Alberta Avenue; Beverly; Chinatown and Little Italy; Downtown; Fort Road and Area; Inglewood; Kingsway; North Edge; Northwest Industrial; Old Strathcona; and Stony Plain Road and Area.

The Business Revitalization Zone tax amounts for 2011 are calculated by multiplying the business assessment (as shown on the city's business assessment roll) by a rate for each BRZ. The BRZ rates range from a low of 0.243% for businesses located in the Northwest Industrial to a high of 1.851% for businesses located in Stony Plain Road and area.

Real Estate

Industrial Real Estate

Alberta offers industrial real estate that is well serviced and meets a variety of needs. Smaller municipalities, such as Lethbridge and Red Deer, have facilities and land with rates that are competitive with larger centres.

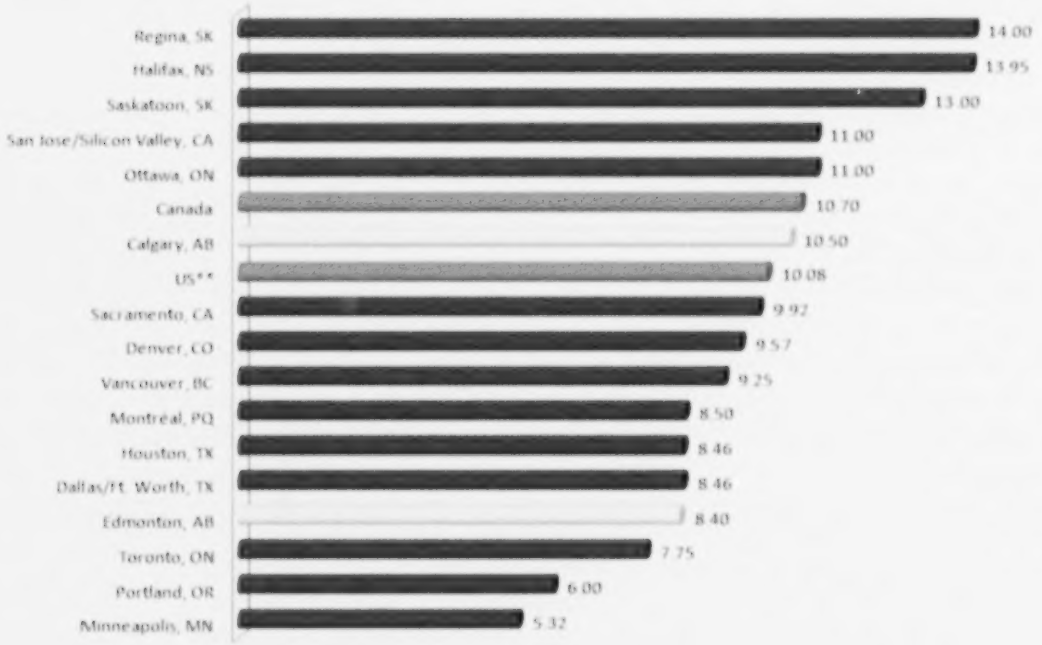
Industrial Triple Net Rent* Per Square Foot – December 2010

	Warehouse/ Distribution Space ($/psf)	Bulk Space ($/psf)	Flex/Service Space ($/psf)	Tech/R&D Space ($/psf)
Canada	*6.86*	*6.07*	*9.21*	*10.70*
Calgary, AB	7.75	6.50	9.50	10.50
Edmonton, AB	6.80	6.15	8.15	8.40
Halifax, NS	7.00	5.50	8.95	13.95
Montreal, PQ	4.00	4.00	6.50	8.50
Ottawa, ON	7.25	6.25	8.25	11.00
Regina, SK	8.50	6.50	12.00	14.00
Toronto, ON	4.98	4.56	7.15	7.75
Vancouver, BC	6.50	5.75	8.50	9.25
*US***				
Chicago, IL	3.87	2.71	8.36	
Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX	3.02	2.72	6.85	8.46
Denver, CO	3.53	3.28	8.56	9.57
Houston, TX	5.00	4.35	6.84	8.46
Phoenix, AZ	5.46	4.21	11.06	10.81
Portland, OR	5.01	4.68	8.95	6.00
Sacramento, CA	4.44	3.78	8.46	9.92
San Jose/Silicon Valley, CA	4.47	5.08	6.89	11.00
Seattle/Puget Sound, WA	5.66		10.20	

Notes:

*Triple Net Rent includes rent (annual) payable to the landlord and does not include additional expenses such as taxes, insurance, maintenance, janitorial and utilities.
** Values in Canadian dollars.
Source: Colliers International, *North America Industrial Real Estate Highlights*, Fourth Quarter 2010.

Technology/R&D Space – Triple Net Rent* Per Square Foot** – December 2010

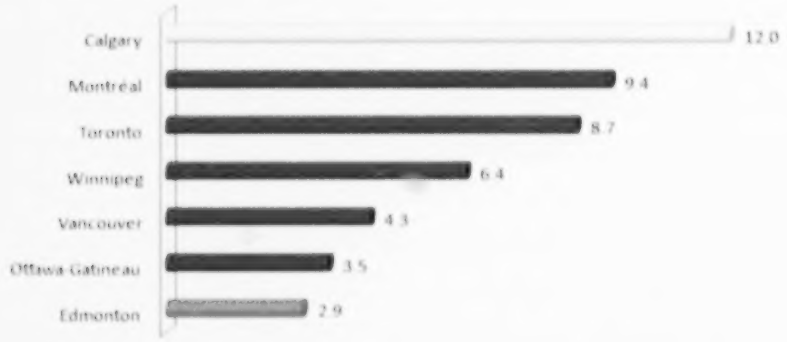


Notes:
*Triple Net Rent includes rent (annual) payable to the landlord and does not include additional expenses such as taxes, insurance, maintenance, janitorial and utilities.
** Values in Canadian dollars.
Source: Colliers International, *North America Industrial Real Estate Highlights*, Fourth Quarter 2010

Commercial Real Estate

Calgary is home to the highest concentration of corporate head office employment and the highest number of head offices per capita in Canada. Edmonton, the capital of Alberta, is the location of most of the provincial and federal government offices.

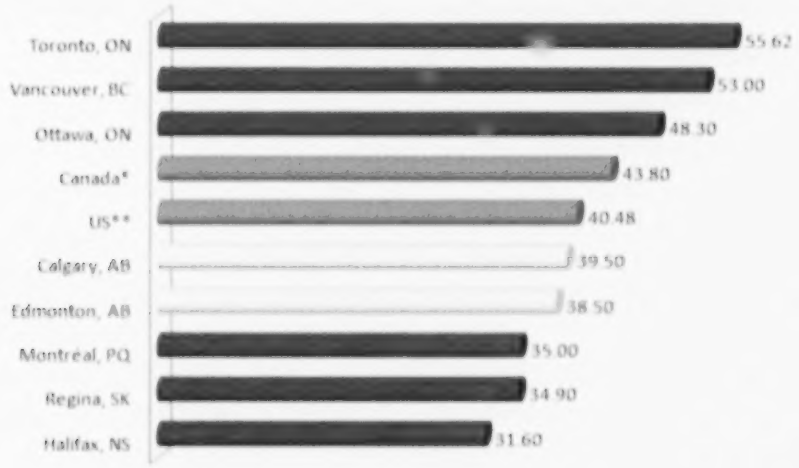
Head Office Employment Per Capita (000's) 2010



Source: Statistics Canada, Business Register, *Head Office Employment in Canada*, 2010

Calgary and Edmonton Class "A" rates are competitive when compared to other major metropolitan areas in North America. With several office towers being completed in 2010, the office vacancy rate in Calgary has increased and rents have decreased slightly. However, the Canadian marketplace is set to benefit from recent job gains and a commodity sector that continues to post robust growth.

Downtown Class 'A' Office Space, Average Annual Quoted Rent Per Square Foot, 2010



Notes:
* weighted average
** weighted average in Canadian dollars
Source: Colliers International, *North American Office Real Estate Highlights*, Fourth Quarter 2010

Residential Housing

RBC Financial Group's housing affordability index measures the proportion of median pre-tax household income required to service the cost of mortgage payments, property taxes and utilities for a home. As of the second quarter of 2011, Alberta homes had decreased slightly in affordability, but were still the lowest among all provinces.

Homebuyer demand has been lower than usual during the first six months of 2011. However, the expectation is that robust economic growth and rising employment will increase confidence in Alberta's housing industry, leading to stronger resale activity in the period ahead.

Home Ownership: Provincial Affordability Comparisons
Percentage of household income taken up by ownership costs
(A lower affordability index value indicates increased affordability)

	Detached Bungalow	Standard Two-Storey	Standard Condominium
Canada*	43.3	49.3	29.2
British Columbia	71.3	76.6	36.8
Alberta	*32.8*	*36.4*	*21.3*
Saskatchewan	39.5	42.7	26.9
Manitoba	36.6	39.2	21.8
Ontario	42.5	48.6	29.8
Quebec	35.1	44.0	28.0
Atlantic Canada	33.4	38.5	27.4

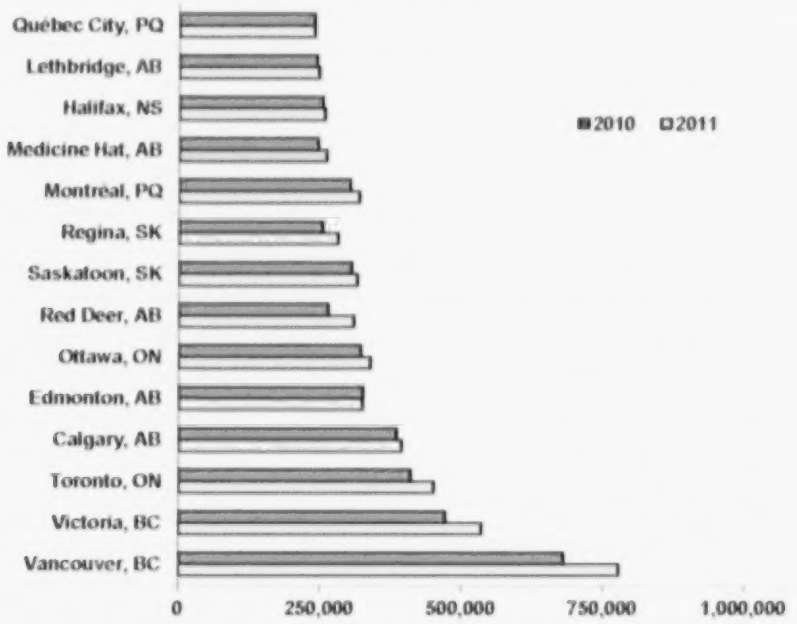
*Population weighted average
Source: RBC Financial Group, *Housing Trends and Affordability, Second Quarter 2011*

Canada Mortgage and Housing (CMHC) produced a Rental Market Report in the fall of 2010. CMHC shows a rental affordability indicator for 23 census municipal areas (CMAs). A generally accepted rule of thumb is that a household should spend less than 30 per cent of its gross income on housing. Accordingly, an indicator value of 100 indicates that 30 per cent of the median income of renter households is necessary to rent a two-bedroom apartment going at the median rental rate. When the affordability indicator is below 100, it indicates that more than 30 per cent of income is necessary to rent a two bedroom apartment, while a value above 100 indicates that less than 30 per cent is necessary to rent a two bedroom apartment.

When comparing 2010 to 2009, the estimated rental affordability rates increased in six centres across Canada, including Calgary and Edmonton. Out of the 23 CMAs, Calgary's rental affordability ranked fourth in 2010 at 132, while Edmonton ranked seventh at 129.

As a result of the economic downturn, average residential prices in Edmonton decreased slightly from August 2010 to August 2011, while Calgary prices rose modestly over the same period. As a result, housing prices in Edmonton and Calgary remain competitive in comparison to other large urban centres in Canada. The average MLS prices for residences in Calgary and Edmonton as of August 2011 are respectively 58% and 49% less than the cost of residences in Vancouver. Prices in Alberta's other urban centres, with the exception of Fort McMurray, are comparable to other cities across Canada.

Average MLS Residential Prices for August 2010 and 2011



Source: Canadian Real Estate Association

Labour Force

Employment

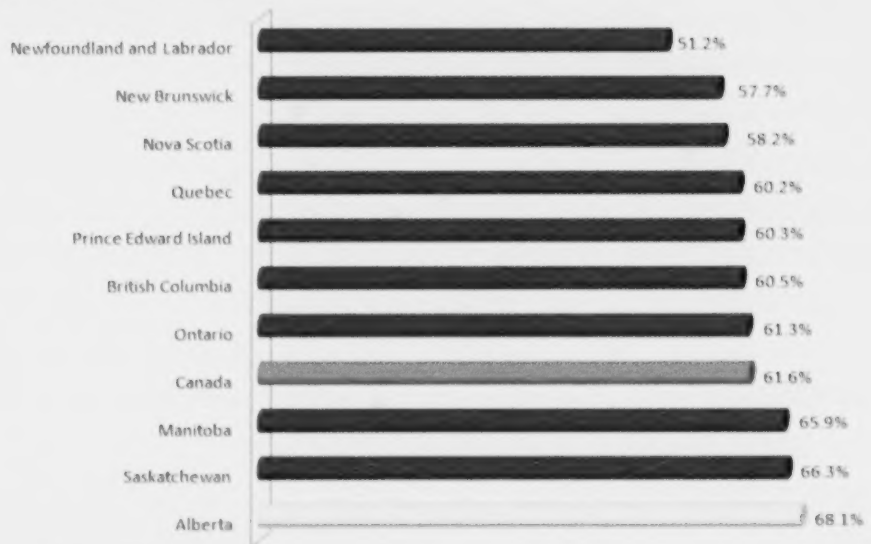
In 2010, Alberta had the highest labour force participation rate among the provinces at 72.9%, higher than the national average of 67.0%. At the same time, Alberta also had the highest employment rate at 68.1% and the third lowest unemployment rate among all provinces at 6.5%.

Between 2009 and 2010, the number of people employed in Alberta decreased by 0.4% or by 8,600. The previous decade has seen the number of people employed in the province of Alberta grow by 433,500.

Alberta's labour market has improved significantly in 2011. As of September 2011 Alberta's unemployment rate had declined to 5.4%, while its participation and employment rates had risen to 74.2% and 70.2%, respectively.

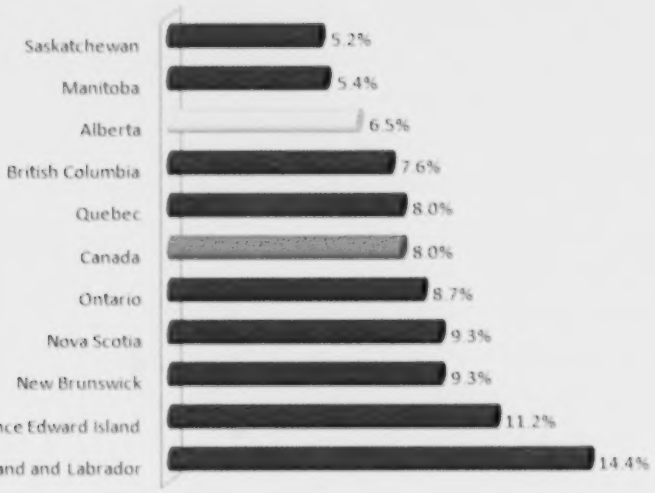
Between September 2010 and September 2011, total employment increased by a nation-leading 4.8% or by 97,700. The sectors with the largest employment gains were manufacturing (up 23,600), professional, scientific and technical services (up 19,000), other services (up 12,800) and accommodation and food services (up 9,800).

Employment Rates – 2010



Source: **Statistics Canada**, *Labour Force Historical Review 2010*

Unemployment Rates – 2010



Source: Statistics Canada, *Labour Force Historical Review 2010*

Employment by Industry – 2010

	'000
Agriculture and Forestry	50.5
Mining, oil and gas	140.2
Utilities	18.4
Construction	206.5
Manufacturing	124.6
Trade	306.0
Transportation and warehousing	104.9
Fin., insurance, real estate and leasing	105.2
Professional, scientific and tech. services	150.9
Business, bldg. & other support services	72.9
Educational services	129.5
Health care and social assistance	219.3
Information, culture and recreation	77.0
Accommodation and food services	125.2
Other services	98.4
Public administration	86.9
All industries	2016.6

Employment by Occupation - 2010

Occupation	'000
Management occupations	162.5
Business, finance and administrative occupations	354.4
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	156.5
Health occupations	122.0
Occupations in social science, education, government service and religion	157.9
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	44.4
Sales and service occupations	478.6
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	373.2
Occupations unique to primary industry	106.7
Occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities	60.4
All occupations	2016.6

Source: Statistics Canada, *Labour Force Historical Review 2010*

Alberta's overall unionization is estimated at 25%, which is the lowest in Canada. The highest rates of unionization are in the public sector (public administration, education, health and utilities). The unionization rate in the private sector is 12.2%.

According to Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, the estimated number of hours lost to labour disputes in Alberta in 2009 averaged 0.49 hours per employed worker (excludes self employed), compared to 0.97 hours per employed worker nationally.

Estimated Union Coverage – 2010

Sector	Total Employees ('000)	Unionized Employees ('000)	Percent Union Members
Agriculture	10.2	0.0	0.0%
Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas	129.2	14.9	11.5%
Utilities	18.3	8.5	46.4%
Construction	147.6	39.9	27.0%
Manufacturing	116.8	21.7	18.6%
Trade	274.8	30.3	11.0%
Transportation and warehousing	83.8	26.6	31.7%
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	84.6	6.8	8.0%
Professional, scientific and technical services	95.8	5.0	5.2%
Business, building and other support services	51.7	4.1	7.9%
Educational services	123.5	83.8	67.9%
Health care and social assistance	195.6	104.1	53.2%
Information, culture and recreation	69.4	14.4	20.7%
Accommodation and food services	115.3	5.8	5.0%
Other services	70.0	4.8	6.9%
Public administration	86.9	57.4	66.1%
Public sector	*367.9*	*259.5*	*70.5%*
Private sector	*1305.6*	*158.8*	*12.2%*
All Industries	1673.5	418.3	25.0%

Note: Excludes self-employed
Source: Statistics Canada, *Labour Force Historical Review 2010*

Skilled Labour

In 2010, 63.7% of the Alberta labour force, 25 years of age and older, reported holding a university degree, post-secondary diploma or certificate. This is slightly below the Canadian average of 65.6%.

Educational Attainment of Labour Force (25 years and older), Annual Averages, 2010

Educational Level	NL	PE	NS	NB	PQ	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	CA
0 - 8 years	4.7%	3.8%	2.4%	3.6%	3.8%	1.9%	2.6%	2.1%	1.6%	1.3%	2.3%
Some high school	8.8%	9.7%	8.6%	8.7%	8.2%	5.9%	9.6%	9.2%	8.0%	6.4%	7.1%
High school graduate	15.8%	18.8%	15.5%	21.4%	14.8%	19.8%	22.1%	23.8%	20.6%	20.4%	18.9%
Some post-secondary education	5.0%	6.8%	6.6%	6.4%	4.9%	5.5%	7.6%	7.0%	6.2%	8.6%	6.0%
Post-secondary certificate or diploma	48.6%	37.3%	40.8%	39.2%	42.4%	35.3%	33.3%	37.3%	38.5%	34.1%	37.6%
University degree	17.2%	23.6%	26.1%	20.7%	25.9%	31.6%	24.8%	20.6%	25.2%	29.2%	28.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, *Labour Force Historical Review 2010*

Wages and Salaries

Alberta wage and salary rates are competitive with the rest of Canada. Relative to the U.S., Alberta and the rest of Canada provide a cost advantage because of publicly funded heath care.

General Minimum Wage Rate 2011*

BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PEI	NL
$8.75	$9.40	$9.50	$9.50	$10.25	$9.65	$10.00	$9.65	$9.30	$10.00

*Effective September 1, 2011 except for New Brunswick which will come into effect April 1, 2012.
Source: Alberta Human Services, 2011

The *2009 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey* examined more than 200,000 full-time and part-time employees and covers over 400 occupations. It can be used to find information on wages and salaries for full-time and part-time employees in Alberta by occupation, geographic area and industry group. The complete survey can be found online at www.alis.gov.ab.ca.

2009 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey – Select Occupation by Industry

Occupation by Industry	Overall Average Hourly Wage
Accommodation and Food Services Industry (Including Tourism)	
Cooks	$13.69
Food and Beverage Servers	$9.55
Agriculture Industry	
General Farm Workers	$16.22
Labourers in Food, Beverage and Tobacco Processing	$13.89
Business, Building, and Other Support Services Industry	
Receptionists and Switchboard Operators	$17.12
Residential and Commercial Installers and Servicers	$27.66
Construction Industry	
Electricians (Except Industrial and Power System)	$30.56
Plumbers	$31.32
Construction Trades Helpers and Labourers	$20.41
Educational Services Industry	
Secondary School Teachers	$39.81
Elementary School and Kindergarten Teachers	$38.86
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing Industry	
Financial Auditors and Accountants	$34.01
Insurance Agents and Brokers	$21.60
Customer Service Representatives - Financial Services	$16.59
Health Care and Social Assistance Industry	
Pharmacists	$46.65
Registered Nurses (Nurse Practitioner)	$36.65
Physiotherapists	$37.52
Manufacturing Industry	
Industrial and Manufacturing Engineers	$42.43
Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction Industry	
Welders and Related Machine Operators	$31.37
Heavy Equipment Operators (Except Crane)	$26.44
Steamfitters and Pipefitters	$32.00
Oil and Gas Well Drilling Workers and Services Operators	$30.51
Other Services (Repair, Personal and Related) Industry	
Automotive Service Technicians	$26.67
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services Industry	
Mechanical Engineers	$47.17
Computer Programmers	$38.17
Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians	$32.12
Technical Writer	$32.37
Lawyers and Quebec Notaries	$55.81

Continued ...

Occupation by Industry	Overall Average Hourly Wage
Public Administration Industry	
Social Workers	$34.10
Retail Trade Industry	
Retail Salespersons and Sales Clerks	$14.39
Cashiers	$11.86
Transportation and Warehousing Industry	
Shippers and Receivers	$17.25
Truck Drivers	$23.74
Wholesale Trade Industry	
Technical Sales Specialists	$34.76
Purchasing and Inventory Clerks	$21.05

Source: Alberta Human Services

The Alberta Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) has taken major steps over the past several years to improve operations and reduce accident claims. Alberta's 2011 average premium rate of $1.22 per $100 of insurable earnings remains the lowest in Canada, considerably lower than the next lowest rate of Manitoba, where the average premium charged is $1.50.

Workers Compensation Board Premiums – 2011

Assessment Rates* Per $100 Payroll

BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PE	NL
$1.54	$1.22	$1.61	$1.50	$2.35	$2.19	$2.00	$2.65	$2.05	$2.75

*Provisional rates

Source: Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada

Employment Standards

The majority of employees in the province are covered by the Alberta *Employment Standards Code*, which establishes minimum employment standards for employers and employees. The code stipulates minimum standards in areas such as:

1. **Hours of work, payment of earnings and overtime pay**
   - In general, the maximum workday is 12 hours long.
   - An employer must allow employees at least one day of rest each week. Employees cannot be required to work more than 24 consecutive days unless the period is followed by at least four consecutive days of rest.
   - Employees must be paid at least once a month and no later than 10 consecutive days after the end of each pay period.
   - Time over eight hours in a day and/or 44 hours in a week is considered overtime. Overtime is paid at 1.5 times the regular wage. Employers and employees may enter into a written overtime agreement. With the agreement, instead of overtime pay, employees receive time off with regular pay equal to the number of overtime hours worked.

2. **Vacation and vacation pay**
   - Entitlement to two weeks after 12 months of employment.
   - Entitlement to three weeks after five years of employment.
3. **Minimum wage rate**
   - $8.80 per hour, effective April 1, 2009. The minimum wage in Alberta will increase to $9.40 effective September 1, 2011. The minimum wage for liquor servers will increase to $9.05 effective September 1, 2011.
4. **General holidays**
   - In Alberta, the following are statutory holidays: New Year's Day; Alberta Family Day; Good Friday; Victoria Day; Canada Day; Labour Day; Thanksgiving Day; Remembrance Day; Christmas Day; and any other day designated as a general holiday by an employer.
5. **Minimum termination notice requirements that employers must give**
   - one week – for employment of more than three months, but less than two years
   - two weeks – for employment of two years, but less than four years
   - four weeks – for employment of four years, but less than six years
   - five weeks – for employment of six years, but less than eight years
   - six weeks – for employment of eight years, but less than 10 years
   - eight weeks – for employment of 10 years or more
   - or the wages the employee would have earned for the applicable period of notice
6. **Parental benefits**
   - A birth mother will be able to take up to 52 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave from employment made up of 15 weeks maternity leave and 37 weeks of parental leave.
   - Fathers and/or adoptive parents are also eligible for 37 weeks of unpaid, job-protected parental leave. Adoptive parents can take parental leave regardless of the age of the adopted child.
   - Parental leave may be taken entirely by one of the parents or can be shared between both parents, but the total cannot exceed 37 weeks.

Inventory of Major Alberta Projects

As of June 2011, the value of Alberta's major construction projects totalled $188.2 billion. The Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake region accounted for 56% of that total, followed by the Calgary region at 13% and the Edmonton region at 11%. The oil sands and infrastructure sectors represent the largest share of investments.

Alberta Major Construction Projects*

MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS	JUNE	
Investment ($ 000,000)	**2010**	**2011**
1) Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake	102,823.9	105,197.7
2) Athabasca - Grande Prairie	13,687.9	9,697.8
3) Edmonton Region	57,308.6	20,380.9
4) Red Deer Region	2,613.2	1,653.8
5) Banff - Jasper	1,695.5	1,366.7
6) Calgary Region	26,937.2	24,899.5
7) Camrose - Drumheller	3,328.1	2,971.0
8) Lethbridge - Medicine Hat	6,264.5	3,487.1
9) Other	17,775.7	18,545.4
Total	232,434.6	188,199.9

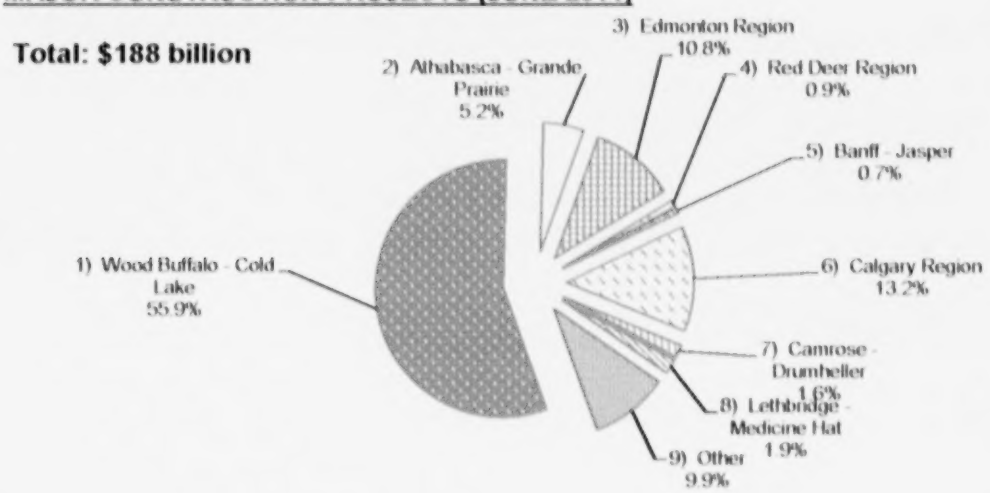
Notes:

* Includes projects valued at $5 million or greater that are planned, underway, or have been recently completed. A number of these projects have been deferred because of the financial crisis and low crude oil prices. It is expected that the projects will proceed when global economic conditions improve.

** Other includes projects that cannot be allocated to a specific region, e.g., pipelines, highways, etc.

Source: Alberta Treasury Board and Enterprise, *Inventory of Major Alberta Projects*, June 2011

Alberta Major Construction Projects Total $188.2 billion


MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS (JUNE 2011)
Total: $188 billion
3) Edmonton Region 10.8%
2) Athabasca - Grande Prairie 5.2%
4) Red Deer Region 0.9%
5) Banff - Jasper 0.7%
1) Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake 55.9%
6) Calgary Region 13.2%
7) Camrose - Drumheller 1.6%
8) Lethbridge - Medicine Hat 1.9%
9) Other 9.9%

Transportation

Alberta's transportation infrastructure plays a critical role in the province's economy. The province's strength as a major exporter of primary commodities and manufactured products to the global marketplace is supported by a highly efficient and competitive transportation and logistics system.

Alberta has emerged as the western North America warehouse and distribution hub for Canada and the Pacific Northwest region of the United States. With direct connections to two of North America's largest highway trade corridors (CANAMEX and the Trans-Canada Highway), quick and efficient access to other provinces in Canada, and the southern U.S. and Mexican markets is available.

Distances to Major Markets (kilometres)

Canada	Edmonton	Calgary
Montreal	3,551	3,582
Regina	780	758
Saskatoon	523	610
Toronto	3,356	3,387
Vancouver	1,189	957
Winnipeg	1,295	1,326
United States	**Edmonton**	**Calgary**
Chicago	2,610	2,553
Dallas	3,175	2,991
Denver	2,045	1,765
Detroit	3,035	2,978
Los Angeles	2,745	2,460
Minneapolis	2,228	1,920
Portland	1,521	1,252
San Francisco	2,380	2,111
Seattle	1,298	1,067

Source: Household Goods Carrier's Bureau – Mileage Guide

Railways

Two transcontinental railway companies, Canadian National (CN) and Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR), service Alberta. Both companies provide highly efficient and competitive service in the movement of export commodities such as petrochemicals, forest products, grain, coal, fertilizers and sulphur to major ports, and throughout the U.S. and Mexico. A modern network of intermodal terminals is strategically located at Vancouver, Prince Rupert, Prince George, Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Dryden, Toronto, Mississauga, Brampton, Montreal, Moncton and Halifax for movement of containerized cargo to the United States and international markets.

Highways

Alberta has more than 30,800 km of provincial highways that form an extensive network throughout the province. More than 27,000 km are paved and 3,800 km are gravelled. Alberta's provincial highway network connects Alberta to the North American highway system and provincial highways in the province have good pavement conditions.

Alberta is enhancing its section of the Canada, America and Mexico (CANAMEX) corridor, which links the three countries and stretches about 6,000 km from Anchorage, Alaska to Mexico City, Mexico. The goals of the CANAMEX corridor are to improve access for the north-south flow of goods and people; increase transport productivity and reduce transport costs; promote a seamless and efficient inter-modal transport system; and reduce administration and enforcement costs through harmonized regulations.

Air Service

Alberta has a network of 85 international, regional, and paved community airports. The province is home to several air taxi, commuter, airline and special flight operations. Alberta also has ambulance, forest fire suppression, agriculture crop spraying, aerial mapping and remote sensing, corporate aviation, recreational flying and flying education services.

Both Calgary and Edmonton feature world-class international airports providing Alberta with some of the best national and international connections in Canada. These airports have 24-hour cargo services, modern cargo terminals and U.S. pre-clearance facilities. They are used by major international airlines and provide direct passenger and cargo services to many North American and international destinations. They are also the major gateways to northern Canada.

Calgary International Airport, which serves as a hub for air traffic in the prairies, has the largest civil aviation runway in Canada measuring 3,863 metres. In 2010 it was Canada's fourth-busiest airport by passenger volume, handling 12.6 million passengers. Calgary International Airport's passenger growth over the past five years is 24%. Calgary International Airport is the only Canadian airport strategically located on the crossroads of the TransCanada (east-west) and CANAMEX (north-south) Highways.

The Edmonton International Airport is Canada's most northerly 24-hour international airport. It is Canada's fifth busiest airport with movement of 6.0 million passengers in 2010. From 2005 to 2010 Edmonton International's passenger growth was 37%. The Edmonton International Airport is the second-largest airport in Canada measured by landmass, comprising an area of over 7,000 acres. Strategically located, Edmonton International Airport is conveniently situated adjacent to the major highway linking Edmonton and Calgary.

Post-Secondary Education

Alberta's post-secondary system has 26 publicly-funded institutions, including universities, technical institutes and public colleges. In 2009-2010 Alberta's universities had 153,700 full- and part-time students. More than 267,000 full- and part-time students were enrolled in the public post-secondary education system. In addition, Alberta has around 70,400 registered apprentices in 50 trades.

Enrolment in Publicly Funded Post-Secondary Institutions: 2009-2010

	Full Time Students	Part Time Students	Total Students [1]	Full Load Equivalents (FLEs) [2]
University of Alberta (including Augustana)	36,047	5,284	41,331	33,886
University of Calgary	27,301	5,232	32,533	26,025
University of Lethbridge	7,971	1,137	9,108	6,911
Athabasca University	5,082	33,251	38,333	7,701
Comprehensive Academic and Research Institutions	76,277	42,940	119,217	74,523
Grant MacEwan University	12,419	5,960	18,379	11,157
Mount Royal University	11,713	4,408	16,121	9,671
Baccalaureate and Applied Studies Institutions	24,129	10,353	34,482	20,828
Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT)	22,199	5,346	27,545	13,186
Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)	17,323	9,104	26,427	11,646
Polytechnical Institutions	39,490	14,414	53,904	24,832
Bow Valley College	3,391	5,208	8,599	4,464
Grande Prairie Regional College	3,150	815	3,965	2,069
Keyano College	1,956	910	2,866	1,353
Lakeland College	3,241	4,145	7,386	2,099
Lethbridge College	5,064	1,553	6,617	4,123
Medicine Hat College	3,050	2,200	5,250	2,537
NorQuest College	5,842	2,556	8,398	5,681
Northern Lakes College	1,089	620	1,709	1,060
Olds College	1,537	927	2,464	1,294
Portage College	1,320	1,654	2,974	1,099
Red Deer College	6,166	1,134	7,300	4,002
Comprehensive Community Institutions	35,490	21,231	56,721	29,781
Ambrose University College	410	165	575	346
Canadian University College	360	116	476	333
Concordia University College of Alberta	1,536	342	1,878	1,337
St. Mary's University College	466	106	572	378
The King's University College	646	85	731	560
Independent Academic Institutions	3,418	798	4,216	2,954
Alberta College of Art and Design	1,137	182	1,319	999
The Banff Centre [3]	3,354	-	3,354	545
Specialized Arts and Culture Institutions	4,491	182	4,673	1,544
TOTAL	182,300	85,074	267,374	154,462

Notes:

1 This is the total unduplicated headcount and may not equal the sum of the institutional totals as a learner can attend more than one institution.

2 An FLE (full load equivalent) represents one learner taking a full course load for a standard year of study. FLEs allow for comparisons across program types.

3 Enrolments for the Banff Centre are not reported through the Learner Enrolment Reporting System. The FLE and headcounts are the enrolments in the Banff Centre's Arts programs. All enrolments are full-time. The Banff Centre also offers programming that is not considered credit instruction; however, the institution is publicly funded.

Source: Alberta Advanced Education and Technology, *Facts and Figures*, 2011.

Alberta Universities and Technical Institutes

University of Alberta

The University of Alberta (U of A) is one of Canada's top teaching and research universities, with an international reputation for excellence across the humanities, sciences, creative arts, engineering and health sciences. Home to more than 39,000 students and 15,000 faculty and staff, the university offers close to 400 undergraduate, graduate and professional programs in 18 faculties on five campuses.

The U of A is the largest research institution in the province and ranks among the top Canadian universities in annual sponsored research funding. In 2009/2010, the U of A generated more than $513 million in research revenue (including clinical trials and related research). Because of its focus on research, the U of A ranks among the top five Canadian universities for total annual sponsored research funding from the three federal government granting councils: the Canadian Institute for Health Research, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, and the Social Science and Humanities Research Council. In 2008/2009 the university ranked third of G13 universities by total sponsored research revenue. U of A researchers participate actively in 19 of 20 (2009/2010) federal Networks of Centres of Excellence that link industry, universities, and the government in applied research and development.

Full-Time Equivalent Enrolment*
By Faculty, 2010-2011

Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences	1,935
Arts	7,122
Augustana	942
Business	2,757
Education	4,206
Engineering	5,740
Law	542
Medicine and Dentistry	2,002
Native Studies	129
Nursing	1,685
Open Studies	693
Physical Education and Recreation	1,198
Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences	653
Rehabilitation Medicine	845
Faculté Saint-Jean	572
Science	7,948
Undergraduate Studies total	*32,687*
Graduate Studies total	*7,207*
Total	**39,893**

*The full-year FTE enrolment count uses Fall and Spring/Summer seasonal headcounts. Part-time graduate student counts are divided by 3, part-time undergraduate counts by 4. Each fall full-time student is counted as 1.0.
Source: University of Alberta, *University of Alberta Data Book*, March 2011

In 2009/2010 the U of A

- produced 96 inventions;
- received 24 patents; and
- received 18 licenses/ options to use University of Alberta technologies.

For Further Information:

Marketing and Communications
University Relations
6th Floor, General Services Building
University of Alberta,
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada T6G 2H1
Phone: 780-492-2325
Website: www.ualberta.ca

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

The University of Calgary (U of C), founded in 1945, is home to scholars in 19 faculties (offering more than 100 academic programs) and 30 research institutes and centres, 4,000 academic and support staff, and more than 24,400 full-time undergraduate and graduate students in 2008-2009.

As one of Canada's top research-intensive universities, the U of C's secured $281 million in sponsored research funding revenues in 2010/2011. Since 2006 the U of C has been ranked in the top 10 of Canada's research universities and continues to increase research funding revenue. In 2009 the U of C actively participated in 12 Networks of Centres of Excellence, an innovative national approach to research and development designed to develop Canada's economy and improve the Canadian way of life.

There were 35 new chairs added in 2009/2010. Government and industry jointly support more than 135 endowed chairs in total at the University of Calgary, with an allocation of $5.29 million.

Full-Time Students by Faculty 2009-2010

Collaborative Degree	21
Combined Degree students*	634
Communication & Culture	1,375
Education	812
Fine Arts	394
Haskayne School of Business	2,430
Humanities	1,000
Kinesiology	617
Law	283
Medicine	1,579
Open Studies	946
Nursing	964
Schulich School of Engineering	2,785
Science	3,994
Social Sciences	3,268
Social Work	369
Undergraduate Studies total	*21,534*
Graduate Studies total	*1,076*
Total	**22,610**

*Combined degree students are registered in degree programs in two or more faculties.

Source: University of Calgary, *Fact Book, 2009-2010*, February 2011

The U of C is a leader in collaborative research relationships and partnerships with academia, government, private and non-profit organizations.

- Companies spun-off from research and innovation at the university are valued at more than half a billion dollars.
- The U of C is among the top four universities in Canada in revenue generated from licensing activity.

For Further Information:

Communications Office
Administration 113
University of Calgary
2500 University Drive NW
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2N 1N4
Phone: 403-220- 2920
Website: www.ucalgary.ca

MacEwan

Founded in 1971 as a community college, Grant MacEwan University (MacEwan) was officially granted university status in September 2009. MacEwan has been offering full bachelor's degrees since 2004. MacEwan comprises four schools and faculties and is home to over 10,000 full-load equivalent students. It offers six Bachelor degrees, three university transfer programs, three applied degrees and more than 60 diploma and certificate programs.

MacEwan offers programs in the liberal and performing arts, science, communications, business, and health and community studies. Students can also take preparation for university and college classes; professional and personal; development courses; and customized corporate training. MacEwan also offers numerous delivery modes such as full-time, part-time and online.

While primarily a teaching-focused university, MacEwan instructors also engage in various research projects – often including undergraduate students and integrating their research into the classroom to enrich the students' experience.

MacEwan has four campuses in Edmonton: City Centre campus, Alberta College Campus, Centre for the Arts and Communication and South Campus. MacEwan plans to eventually combine all its programs at the City Centre campus.

Additional information:

Grant MacEwan University
P.O. Box 1796
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2P2
Phone: 780-497-5040
Website: www.macewan.ca

Athabasca University

Athabasca University (AU) is Canada's leading distance-education and online university. In 2009/2010 AU served more than 38,000 students in 90 countries worldwide. We offer over 800 courses in nearly 50 undergraduate and graduate degree, diploma and certificate programs. Like most Canadian universities, AU provides post-secondary learning opportunities for Albertans, other Canadians and for students from other countries. We are unique, however, in guaranteeing access to university level study to a broad range of non-traditional students: anyone age 16 or over is eligible for admission to undergraduate study.

AU offers nine graduate degrees and 15 related graduate diploma and certificate program; 25 undergraduate degree, diploma and certificate programs in Arts, Commerce, General Studies, Health Administration, Human Resources and Labour Relations, Management, Nursing, Professional Arts, Science and Science in Computing and Information Systems. AU's programs are predominantly available through individualized study. Course materials are designed specifically for distance and online learners.

Additional Information:

Athabasca University
1 University Drive
Athabasca, Alberta T9S 3A3
Phone: 1-800-788-9041
Website: www.athabascau.ca

THE NORTHERN ALBERTA
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

The Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) offers 41 accredited programs and courses, and is considered one of Canada's finest and largest technical training institutes. NAIT is Alberta's third largest post-secondary educational institution with approximately 86,000 customers each year. NAIT trains half of Alberta's 70,400 registered apprentices and 17% of Canada's registered apprentices.

NAIT is a leader in technical training and applied education designed to meet the demands of Alberta's industries. NAIT confers certificates, diplomas, and applied degrees. The Institute has more than 250 programs, including 35 apprenticeship offerings and over 1,400 continuing education courses. The NAIT HP Centre for Information and Communications Technology is one of the most technologically advanced facilities in the world. The Centre provides a leading-edge environment for applied technology and research.

Additional Information:

Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
11762 – 106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5G 3H1
Phone: 1-800-661-4077
Website: www.nait.ab.ca

POLYTECHNIC

SAIT Polytechnic delivers relevant, skill-oriented education to 70,000 registrants annually. SAIT offers two full baccalaureate degrees (commencing Fall 2011), four applied degrees, 66 diploma and certificate programs, 32 apprenticeship trades, English language foundations, academic upgrading and 1,600 continuing education and corporate training courses. SAIT works closely with industry to ensure graduate success. The class of 2009 has a 91% employment rate.

Established in 1916, SAIT has embarked on the largest expansion in its history: construction of a $400 million Trades and Technology campus that will add 3,600 full-time training spaces.

SAIT was a founding sponsor of World Skills Calgary 2009 and is a leader in applied research and innovation, providing expertise and resources to industry and real-world learning experiences to students.

SAIT is a member of Polytechnics Canada and one of Alberta's Top 50 Employers for 2011.

Additional Information:

Southern Alberta Institute of Technology
1301 – 16 Avenue NW
Calgary, Alberta T2M 0L4
Phone: 1-877-284-SAIT (7248)
Website: www.sait.ab.ca

University of Lethbridge

The University of Lethbridge (U of L) offers full degree programs in arts and science, education, health sciences, fine arts, and management to approximately 7,800 full-time equivalent students. The U of L has a focus on liberal arts, selected professional programs, smaller classes, co-op placements, and involvement of students in faculty research. There are five faculties and schools at the U of L offering over 150 undergraduate program options. Many courses are also offered on U of L campuses in Edmonton and Calgary.

The U of L is one of the few Canadian universities committed to a liberal arts undergraduate education. The Centre for the Arts at the U of L was designed to bring together the teaching faculties of art, music and theatre/drama, and to provide teaching spaces tailored to their specific needs.

Additional Information:

The University of Lethbridge
4401 University Drive
Lethbridge, Alberta T1K 3M4
Phone: 403-320-5700
Website: www.uleth.ca

MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY
1910
CALGARY, ALBERTA

Mount Royal University is Canada's oldest new undergraduate university. Established in 1910 and building on 100 years of academic excellence, Mount Royal received permission from the Government of Alberta in September, 2009 to change its name from Mount Royal College to Mount Royal University. Mount Royal's programs combine liberal and applied studies for more than 13,000 students each year, providing individual fulfillment, opportunities for further studies and employment to its graduates.

Mount Royal offers more than 60 degree, applied degree, diploma and certificate programs through seven faculties: Faculty of Arts, Bissett School of Business, Faculty of Communication Studies, Faculty of Health and Community Studies, Faculty of Science and Technology, Faculty of Teaching and Learning, and the Mount Royal University Conservatory. The Faculty of Teaching and Learning — unique in Canada — also enables faculty to conduct teaching–learning research, participate in scholarly exchanges and enrich their teaching skills.

The University is home to research-focused institutes including the Institute for Non-profit Studies, the Integrative Health Institute and the Institute for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. A new Centre for Child Well-Being and a Criminal Justice Research Lab were both launched in 2009.

More information:

Mount Royal University
4825 Mount Royal Gate SW
Calgary, Alberta T3E 6K6
Telephone: 403-440-6111
Website: www.mtroyal.ca

Public and Private Colleges

Alberta has an extensive network of public and private accredited colleges. These institutions offer academic upgrading, job readiness, apprenticeship, certificate, diploma, university transfer and applied degree programs. Alberta's 12 public colleges include:

- Alberta College of Art and Design (Calgary)
- Bow Valley College (Calgary)
- Grande Prairie Regional College (Grande Prairie)
- Keyano College (Fort McMurray)
- Lakeland College (Lloydminster, Vermilion, Sherwood Park)
- Lethbridge College (Lethbridge)
- Medicine Hat College (Medicine Hat, Brooks)
- NorQuest College (Edmonton, Stony Plain, Wetaskiwin)
- Northern Lakes College (Grouard, Slave Lake)
- Olds College (Olds)
- Portage College (St. Paul, Cold Lake, Lac La Biche)
- Red Deer College (Red Deer)

The Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC) reviews all proposals for new degree programs from both public and private institutions to ensure they are of high quality before they are approved. The Council also conducts periodic evaluations of approved degree programs to ensure that quality standards continue to be met. Alberta has five private colleges accredited to grant specific academic degrees at the university level. These include:

- Ambrose University College (Calgary)
- Canadian University College (Lacombe)
- Concordia University College of Alberta (Edmonton)
- The King's University College (Edmonton)
- St. Mary's University College (Calgary)

In addition, The Banff Centre is a publicly funded institution that provides advanced continuing education opportunities in fine arts, management studies, language training and environmental training for people who already have academic credentials and/or professional experience in their discipline.

Educational Support

Alberta's education system continues to be among the best in the world and is staying at the forefront by providing students with the tools they need to achieve their potential. Investments in schools, universities, colleges and technical institutes are increasing, so they can provide high quality and affordable education.

The Alberta's per student and per capita spending on basic education continues to be among the highest in Canada. Provincial funding for K-12 in 2010/11 is $6.3 billion. Of that, $5.4 billion provides operating support to school boards and other educational support to manage current initiatives, giving the province the flexibility to address local education needs.

In 2010/11, the Government of Alberta is providing more than $3.2 billion for operating and capital programs for the post-secondary education system. Of the total post-secondary funding for 2010/11,

$206 million is dedicated towards Alberta's provincial student assistance and debt relief programs – the most generous in Canada. Another one billion dollars was allocated to post-secondary capital projects to be supported over three years.

The Government of Alberta is committed to encouraging and rewarding the excellence of Alberta students by offering scholarships through the Achievement Scholarship program, the Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund, and need-based bursaries.

The Alberta government established the Achievement Scholarships program in 2000 to recognize the excellence of Alberta students. This program includes the Jason Lang Scholarship, the Jimmie Condon Athletic Scholarship, and the Graduate Student Scholarship. These scholarships continue to be offered nearly a decade later.

The Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund was designed to stimulate the pursuit of excellence by rewarding outstanding achievement and encouraging and assisting Albertans to achieve their fullest potential. The scholarships and awards support Albertans in many areas including academics, the arts, community involvement and athletics. The scholarship fund currently administers over 40 different scholarships and has a budget in excess of $38 million (2010/11).

Alberta Scholarship Programs also administers the Northern Alberta Development Council Bursary, Northern Student Supplement, Alberta Opportunities Bursary, the Canada Millennium Bursary and the Millennium Alberta Rural Incentive Bursary to assist students in financial need in the pursuit of their studies.

In 2005, the Government of Alberta launched the Alberta Centennial Education Savings Plan (ACES) to provide an incentive for parents to begin planning and saving for their children's post-secondary education as early as possible. The plan contributes $500 to the Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) of every child born to Alberta residents. The same year, an Alberta-funded national scholarship program was launched by the Government of Alberta as an Alberta centennial gift to Canadians.

The Alberta Centennial Scholarships provides 325 scholarships annually. One of these awards is the Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship, established in honour of The Queen's visit to Alberta in May 2005, to commemorate the province's centennial year. The program provides awards to Canadian citizens or permanent residents who are enrolled full-time in a master or doctoral program at a designated Alberta university.

In July 2011 the Government of Alberta created the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge Scholarship to commemorate the Royal Couple's visit to Alberta. The scholarship recognizes the exceptional achievements of post-secondary students who have overcome significant challenges in their lives. The program will award up to 25 students based on their outstanding academic performance.

Research and Development Community

Alberta has an excellent science and research infrastructure (including people, knowledge, equipment, and facilities) that forms the basis for the development, adoption and commercialization of new technology, products and processes that are recognized and sold globally.

Prior to 2010 Alberta research organizations operated as individual groups. They were recently consolidated into one organization -- Alberta Innovates (www.albertainnovates.ca) -- creating five new organizations that will further build on Alberta's strengths in the health, energy and environment, technology and bio sectors.

The new organizations include:

Alberta Innovates – Bio Solutions

http://www.albertainnovates.ca/bio/introduction

Alberta Innovates – Energy and Environmental Solutions; http://www.albertainnovates.ca/energy/introduction

Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions;

http://www.albertainnovates.ca/health/introduction

Alberta Innovates – Technology Futures; http://www.albertainnovates.ca/technology/introduction

and

Alberta Innovates – Alberta Research and Innovation Authority
http://www.albertainnovates.ca/research/introduction

With its new Alberta Innovates research and innovation system and its Action Plan for Bringing Technology to Market, Alberta provides an attractive platform for companies to accelerate innovations into the global marketplace.

The Alberta Innovates agencies seek solutions in key priority areas of Health, Energy and the Environment and Bio-industries. They are supported by research and development-focused information and communications technology, life science and nanotechnology organizations, and a new Technology Futures agency dedicated to supporting company creation and growth in emerging industries and markets.

Alberta offers a supportive business climate with its Scientific Research and Experimental Development tax credit program, Innovation Vouchers program and the Alberta Enterprise Corporation, which will help attract venture capital investments to Alberta.

The Government of Alberta's Connector Service provides one-window access to Alberta's research and innovation community. It offers innovative businesses, entrepreneurs, researchers, investors and business service providers a helping hand to guide them through Alberta's research and innovation system. Contact the Alberta Innovates Connector Service at 1-877-828-0444 or connector@albertainnovates.ca.

Research Funding at Alberta Universities

Alberta's research universities rank among the best in Canada in terms of sponsored research revenue, an indicator of excellence and capacity. In 2007/2008, these universities received $761 million in sponsored research funding, an increase of 22% over the past five years. Over the past five years, they have received a total of $3.4 billion in sponsored research funding.

Since 1997/1998, provincial government funding for university research has quadrupled, reaching $271 million in 2007/2008, a firm indication of Alberta's commitment towards science and innovation. Over the same period, federal government research funding to Alberta research universities has more than tripled to $306 million and the level of sponsored research funding provided to universities by non-governmental sources (primarily industry and non-profit organizations) more than doubled to $214 million.

Alberta's major research universities generate funding through the activities of their respective technology transfer programs: TEC Edmonton for the University of Alberta, University Technologies International Inc. for the University of Calgary, and the Technology Transfer Office for the University of Lethbridge. In 2006/2007, these universities filed 151 patents, were issued 40 patents, formed four start-up companies, and received $6.5 million in gross licensing revenues.

World-Class Research Infrastructure

Alberta researchers have access to some of the leading technology in the world. It is the research capacity established by this high quality infrastructure that attracts and retains the best researchers, those who generate new knowledge, who address pressing needs in our society, and who train the best students to take that knowledge into the workforce.

Highly trained and skilled researchers and students are critical for building, attracting and retaining successful companies to fuel Alberta's economy. Alberta is committed to ensuring its researchers have access to the equipment they need. To that end, the Alberta Science and Research Investments Program (ASRIP) committed in its last competition approximately $43 million in support of research infrastructure in Alberta. These funds support fourteen projects with a total cost of $188 million, including equipment to support research in high performance computing, remote sensing, nanotechnology, improved oil sands recovery, prion diseases research, genomics and other.

Alberta Treasury Board and Enterprise
4th Fl Commerce Place
10155-102 Street
Edmonton, AB
Canada T5J 4L6

Telephone: 780.427.6787
Fax: 780.422.0061

Website: www.albertacanada.com

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You can access Facts on Alberta and the following related department publications on the Internet at: http://albertacanada.com/about-alberta/statistics-and-publications.html

- Monthly Economic Review
- Inventory of Major Alberta Projects
- Highlights of the Alberta Economy
- Alberta Natural Gas Industry Quarterly Update
- Alberta Oil Sands Industry Quarterly Update